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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for supporting a stator of an electric motor having a plurality of teeth, where each of the teeth is wound with a stator winding, comprising:  
a first support member abutting a first portion of the stator; and  
a second support member abutting a second portion of the stator,  
wherein at least one of the first and second support members is slotted.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first support member is slotted.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said second support member is slotted.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein both support members are slotted.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first support member is bonded to the stator.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second support member is bonded to the stator.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second support members are annular.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first support member supports an inner portion of the stator and the second support member supports an outer portion of the stator.

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9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the outer portion of the stator is an end portion of the plurality of teeth.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second support members are solid, continuous support rings.

11. (Currently Amended) A disc drive data storage system having a motor for rotating a plurality of data storage disks comprising:

a housing having a base and a central axis;  
a shaft attached to said base and coaxial with the central axis;  
a rotatable member which is rotatable with respect to the shaft; and  
a stator, coaxial with the rotatable member, being supported by at least two support members, at least one of said two support members being slotted.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for supporting a stator of an electric motor having a plurality of teeth, where each of the teeth is wound with a stator winding, comprising:

a first support means for supporting a first portion of the stator; and  
a second support means for supporting a second portion of the stator,  
wherein at least one of said first and second support means is slotted.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support means is an annular support member.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second support means is an annular support member.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support means is slotted.

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16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second support means is slotted.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein both support means are slotted.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support means is bonded to the stator.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second support means is bonded to the stator.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support means supports an inner portion of the stator and second support means supports an outer portion of the stator.